

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1874
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 30.07.2021

Smog Towers

1874. SHRI VINAYAK RAUT:
SHRIMATI REKHA VERMA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to set up smog towers in all major cities of Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra to tackle the problem of air pollution;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the other measures taken by the Union Government to combat the ever deteriorating problem of air pollution in country?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) and (b):

Central Government has no proposal under consideration to set up smog towers in any city of Uttar Pradesh or Maharashtra.

(c)

The Government has taken several steps for mitigation of air pollution which inter alia includes the following:

- a) Leapfrogging from BS-IV to BS-VI norms for fuel and vehicles from 1st April, 2020.
- b) Network of Metro rails for public transport are enhanced and more cities are covered.
- c) Development of Expressway and Highways are also reducing the fuel consumption and pollution.
- d) Introduction of cleaner/alternate fuels like CNG, LPG, ethanol blending in petrol.
- e) Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles (FAME) -2 scheme has been rolled out.
- f) Shifting of Brick kilns to zig-zag technology for reduction of pollution.
- g) Industrial units shifting to PNG.
- h) Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana is promoting use of cleaner household cooking fuels.
- i) A new initiative, "Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT)", is launched to set up 5000 Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) production plants and make CBG available in the market for use in automotive fuels.
- j) Installation of on-line continuous monitoring devices in highly polluting industries.
- k) Setting up infrastructure such as waste processing plants.
- l) Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for plastic and e-waste management.

- m) Ban on burning of biomass/garbage.
- n) Under Central Sector Scheme on 'Promotion of Agricultural Mechanization for in-situ management of Crop Residue in the States of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and NCT of Delhi', agricultural machines and equipment for in-situ crop residue management are promoted with 50% subsidy to the individual farmers and 80% subsidy for establishment of Custom Hiring Centres.
- o) The Central Government launched National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) as a long-term, time-bound, national level strategy to tackle the air pollution problem across the country in a comprehensive manner with targets to achieve 20 % to 30 % reduction in Particulate Matter concentrations by 2024.
- p) ₹ 376.5 crores have been sanctioned to non-attainment cities under NCAP for initiating actions such as expansion of monitoring network, construction and demolition waste management facilities, non-motorised transport infrastructure, green buffers, mechanical street sweepers, composting units etc.
- q) As per the Fifteenth Finance commission recommendations ₹4400 crores have been released in the Budget of FY 2020-21 to tackle the burgeoning problem of air pollution for 42 urban centres with a million-plus population. Further, an amount of ₹12,139 crores has been allocated for improvement of air quality for the award period FY 2021-26.
- r) City Specific Action plans for improvement of air quality has been prepared and approved for implementation.
- s) Implementation of the city specific action plans are regularly monitored by Committees at Central and State level namely Steering Committee, Monitoring Committee and Implementation Committee.
- t) Technical and scientific institutes of repute are working as knowledge partners to NCAP
